



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

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Application Checklist and Instructions Professional Geophysicist (PGp) Examination

The following checklist is intended to help applicants complete all application requirements.

- ☐ Qualifying Education (Business and Professions Code § 7841.1): Graduation with a major in geophysical sciences from an accredited college or university. Applicants must request and submit sealed, certified transcripts for all relevant degrees or course work with their applications. **Unsealed transcripts will not be accepted.** Each year of undergraduate study in geophysical sciences shall count as one-half year of experience, up to a maximum of two years; additionally, each year of graduate study or research counts as one year of experience. Teaching in the geophysical sciences at a college level shall be credited year-for-year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that total teaching experience includes a minimum of six semester units per semester or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of four years towards meeting the requirement of at least seven years of professional geophysical education and work experience.

- ☐ Qualifying Experience (Business and Professions Code § 7841.1): An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geophysicist must have at least seven years of prorated geophysical education (as detailed above) and prorated professional geophysical work experience. Additionally, the seven years of prorated work experience must include one of the following:

- A minimum three years of prorated professional geophysical work under the supervision of a professional geophysicist, except that prior to July 1, 1973, professional geophysical work shall qualify under this subdivision if it is under the supervision of a qualified geophysicist.

-OR-

- A minimum five years of prorated experience in responsible charge of professional geophysical work. This experience shall be gained under the supervision of a licensed geophysicist in this or any other state, or under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the Board, have the training and experience to be in *responsible charge* of geophysical work.

Professional geophysical work does not include the routine maintenance or operation of geophysical instruments, or, even if carried out under the responsible supervision of a professional geophysicist, the routine reduction or plotting of geophysical observations. Credit will not be given for professional geological work performed under the supervision of a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) until the applicant has completed the educational requirements. Credit will not be given for professional geophysical work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational experience credit is allowed. Part-time graduate study or research and part-time professional geophysical work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis. Unlicensed practice of geophysics will not be recognized as qualifying experience.

- ☐ Request "Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological Work Experience" form(s) (Business and Professions Code § 7841.1). The Board encourages applicants to review this form with reference providers prior to submission with the applicant's application. Only those references necessary to adequately document an applicant's prorated qualifying experience are required. Please include a copy of the Geology "[Definitions of Critical Concepts](#)" with each evaluation you request. *If*

the reference provider is not a licensed geologist or licensed geophysicist, they must provide their resume with the reference for verification of their ability to provide a reference. The completed forms must accompany the application.

- ☐ **Submit the “Application for Professional Geologist and Geophysicist Examinations,” \$250 application filing fee (non-refundable) and \$100 examination fee (total of \$350), college and university transcript(s) and “Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant’s Qualifying Geophysical Work Experience” form(s) by the final filing date for the examination being applied for.** If additional information is requested, applicants will have until 70 days prior to the exam to submit the requested information or documents.

Applicants will be contacted via the e-mail address provided by them on their application to notify them once examination eligibility has been determined. Please make checks, money orders or bank drafts payable to the “Department of Consumer Affairs” (DCA). The applicant’s cancelled check will serve as receipt for fees paid.

Previous California Professional Geophysicist examination applicants: Applicants who have taken but did not pass the PGp examination ***within the past two years*** need not provide new transcripts or new “Independent Evaluations of Scope”. However, it is necessary to complete a retake application and include payment of all applicable fees postmarked by the final retake application date for the examination applied for. The retake application only applies to examinations that the applicant has previously taken and failed, it does not apply to an examination that the applicant applied for but did not take. Retake applications are available by calling the Board office at 1.866.780.5370.

Address all communications regarding your application to:

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists
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